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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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12 BRIAN WHITAKER,

NO. 2:21-cv-00472-WBS-DB

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO VDRP AND
STAYING PROCEEDINGS

15 BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP, INC.,
16 a Delaware Corporation,

17 Defendant.
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19 The court has determined that this case is appropriate
20 for an early settlement conference and will refer the action to
21 the court's Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program ("VDRP").

22 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

23 1. Within fourteen (14) days of this Order, the
24 parties shall contact the court's VDRP administrator, Sujean
25 Park, at (916) 930-4278 or SPark@caed.uscourts.gov, to start the
26 process of selecting an appropriate neutral. The parties shall
27 carefully review and comply with Local Rule 271, which outlines
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1 the specifications and requirements of the VDRP.

2 2. Any party that objects to this referral to the
3 VDRP shall file its objections within seven (7) days of this
4 Order. Such objections shall clearly outline why that party
5 believes that the action is not appropriate for referral to the
6 VDRP.

7 3. To avoid the unnecessary expenditure of costs and
8 attorneys' fees, this action is hereby stayed to provide the
9 parties time to complete the VDRP session. No later than five
10 (5) days after completion of the VDRP session, the parties shall
11 file a joint statement indicating whether a settlement was
12 reached.

13 4. The parties shall complete the VDRP session no
14 later than September 27, 2021. The court hereby resets the
15 Status (Pretrial Scheduling) Conference for October 25, 2021. If
16 a settlement is not reached through VDRP, the parties shall
17 submit an Amended Joint Status Report no later than October 12,
18 2021.

19 IT IS SO ORDERED.

20 Dated: June 25, 2021



21 **WILLIAM B. SHUBB**
22 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**
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